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Agca said paid by Mafioso

ROME — Gunman Mehmet Ali Agca received a cash payment from the Turkish Mafia in a Bulgarian hotel before he shot and seriously wounded Pope John Paul II in Rome, an Italian court was told yesterday.

Omer Mersan, a Turkish businessman from Munich, West Germany, told the Rome assize court he handed Agca the equivalent of \$770 at a meeting in the Vitosha Hotel, Sofia, in mid-July 1980. Mr. Mersan said he paid Agca the money on behalf of Abuzer Urgulu, an arms dealer and businessman described by the prosecution as a leading figure in the Turkish Mafia.

He had not previously met Agca and did not know the reason for the payment, Mr. Mersan told the court.